Invitation to Mr. T. Muivah

3232. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have sent a formal invitation to the Naga insurgent leader, Mr. Thuingaleng Muivah to visit India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government's decision to invite Mr. Muivah to hold talks with an outlawed organization on Indian soil has sent a wrong signal to the entire N.E. Region which is in turmoil following the extension of Nagaland cease fire to other areas; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Opening up of land routes with Bangladesh

3233. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has opened up land routes with Bangladesh with a proposal to start a bus service from Dhaka to Agartala;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the porous border between India and Bangladesh is causing massive infiltration of Bangladeshis into India and changing the demography of North-Eastern States, especially Assam; and

(c) whether Government propose to concentrate on policing its borders with Bangladesh more efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement and protocol to operate bus service between Agartala and Dhaka was signed on 10-7-2001 at Dhaka. Regular bus service is likely to take place around end August, 2001.

(b) There is continous influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh. It is

difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(c) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelearted programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly.

Tribals seeking protection from Naxal attacks

3234. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals of certain areas like Nizamabad are agitating and seeking protection from Naxal attacks; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to look into their problems and assist them to live fearlessly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated that on 24.6.2001 about 500 Lambadas, Tribals of Nizamabad District, took out procession, staged dharna in front of Collectorate, Nizamabad in protest against the attacks of extremists. They also submitted a representation to the District Collector to stop the attacks of extremists.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh is taking various steps to protect the lives of Lambadas from the attacks of extremists. Intensified raids and combing operations are organized in the tribal areas to get at the extremists indulging in violence. Apart from this, developmental and welfare programmes are organized in the remote and tribal areas through various schemes by the State Government. The families of Lambadas killed by extremists were paid *ex-gratia* of Rs. 15 lakhs each.